

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, the drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as allegedly failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims and the drawings filed December 3, 2004, were disapproved as allegedly containing new matter; Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Beach, Jr. (U.S. Pat. No. 2,381,394); Claims 1, 3, 6, 8-12, 18-21 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Puchois (U.S. Pat. No. 3,950,806); Claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Casey (U.S. Pat. No. 4,788,927); Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Beach, Jr. in view of Kirkpatrick et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,0201,75); Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Puchois in view of Duren (U.S. Pat. No. 5,593,331); Claims 27, 29, 30, 33 and 35-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Beach, Jr.; Claim 28 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Beach, Jr. as applied to Claim 27 above, and further in view of Wolfe (U.S. Pat. No. 4,103,379); Claim 31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Beach, Jr. as applied to Claim 30 above, and further in view of Tihany (U.S. Pat. No. 4,771,722); and Claim 34 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Beach, Jr. as applied to Claim 27 above, and further in view of Duren. Also in the Final Office Action, Claims 13, 14, 25, 26, and 32 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claim 38 was allowed.

In this proposed Amendment, Applicant has cancelled Claims 13, 25 and 32 and amended

Claims 1, 6, 9, 10, 14, 18, 21, 26, and 27. Thus, upon entry of this proposed Amendment, Claims 1-12, 14-24, 26-31 and 33-38 will be pending. Of these claims, Claims 1, 18, 27 and 38 are independent claims, Claim 38 having been allowed.

As required by the Office Action in response to the drawings objection 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) and merely for the sake of moving the application forward, Applicant has cancelled material added in the Specification in Applicant's previous Amendment directed to mounting arrangements of the claimed fastening devices, the type of fastening devices, and the shape of the claimed pockets. Applicant respectfully submits that the previous amendment to the Specification simply made explicit that which was inherent in the original disclosure and is therefore not new matter. See, e.g., Applicant's Specification at page 5, lines 14-17, and page 8, lines 15-18 and Claims 9 and 10. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that those skilled in the art will comprehend and appreciate a D-ring in a box-shaped pocket, a clasp in a pyramid-shaped pocket, an O-ring with a link of chain, and an hook and eye. Nevertheless, having cancelled the foregoing material merely for the sake of moving the application forward, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the application based on the original Figures 1-4 and for the following reasons.

Applicant proposes amending Claim 1 to include essentially the allowable subject matter of Claim 13, now cancelled. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendment and withdrawal of the rejections to Claim 1. Applicant further respectfully requests allowance of Claim 1 and its dependent Claims 2-12, 14-17 and 37.

Applicant proposes amending Claim 18 to include essentially the allowable subject matter of Claim 25, now cancelled. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the

amendment and withdrawal of the rejections to Claim 18. Applicant further respectfully requests allowance of Claim 18 and its dependent Claims 19-24.

Applicant proposes amending Claim 27 to include essentially the allowable subject matter of Claim 32, now cancelled. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendment and withdrawal of the rejections to Claim 27. Applicant further respectfully requests allowance of Claim 27 and its dependent Claims 28-31 and 33-36.

Applicant respectfully submits that the proposed Amendment responds directly to matters raised in the Office Action, and places the Application in condition for allowance without adding new matter and requiring an additional search by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the proposed Amendment, reconsideration and allowance of the application.

If the Examiner has any questions upon consideration of this proposed Amendment, the Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the number appearing below.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully submitted,

DORITY & MANNING, P.A.

4/25/05
Date


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